# Building and Consolidating Peace

HLDF | 14 March 2024

Context: Major Drivers of Instability and Conflict

shock    stress
internal issue
external player    regional influx
social media
unresolved internal issue
powerful external player
young population
complex

# The Big Risk: Falling into a 'Fragility Trap'

- Recurring cycles of conflict

- A receding development horizon that perpetuates conflict

-  Structural dependence on humanitarian assistance

-  Conflict response at the expense of development progress

- 'Short-termist' and reactive partnerships

# Major Challenges to Peace and Security in Ethiopia

1. Youth unemployment

2. Climate change induced disasters

3. Surge of elite-led zero-sum populism

4. Untamed wars of narratives

5.  Social media-based polarization and extremism

6. Erosion of social cohesion and resilience

7. Ethnically or politically motivated violations of civil rights

8. Weak rule of law

9.  Corruption

# Background

# Establishing a System and Institutions for Peace-building

**Policy and legal framework**

> Peace Policy

> Mainstreaming peace initiatives in other laws, policy, decisions

**Establishing, strengthening and reforming institutions**

> Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
> National Election Board of Ethiopia
> Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission
> National Rehabilitation Commission

> Legal and institutional reforms
> Justice and security sector reform

**Dealing with the past, accountability and national consensus**

> Transitional justice for sustainable peace based on truth, justice and reconciliation

> National dialogue for national consensus

# National Peace Policy Framework

**Objective:**

Ensure holistic and sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

**Pillars:**

- Secure and promote positive peace.

- Social capital for national consensus building and diversity-centered unity.

- Excellence in internalizing Federalism and enhanced implementation.

- Ensure rule of law.

- Inclusive and sustainable human development.

# Strategic Alignment with the 3-year National Development Plan and Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda

Current country context of peace has started to be viewed through peace nexus approach

Peace has been recognized as a crucial element in bringing a sound economic development

Development actors started deploying a peace-development nexus approach in their planning and implementation of interventions

MoP's peacebuilding and conflict management approach has begun to reflect the impact of development in its plan and action

Implementing more peace building intervention is essential in major conflict affected regions of the country

Effective data collection, analysis and dissemination system for early warning and rapid response mechanism

Strengthening government capability in resolving active conflicts

Enhancing and strengthening social cohesion across the country

More than 2.4 million IDPs requiring urgent and collective actions

# Intervention Areas

1. Comprehensive and Sustainable Peacebuilding Project

2. Early Warning and Rapid Response Project

3. Youth Volunteerism for Peace and National Unity Program

4. Transform major conflict areas into peaceful and flourishing development areas
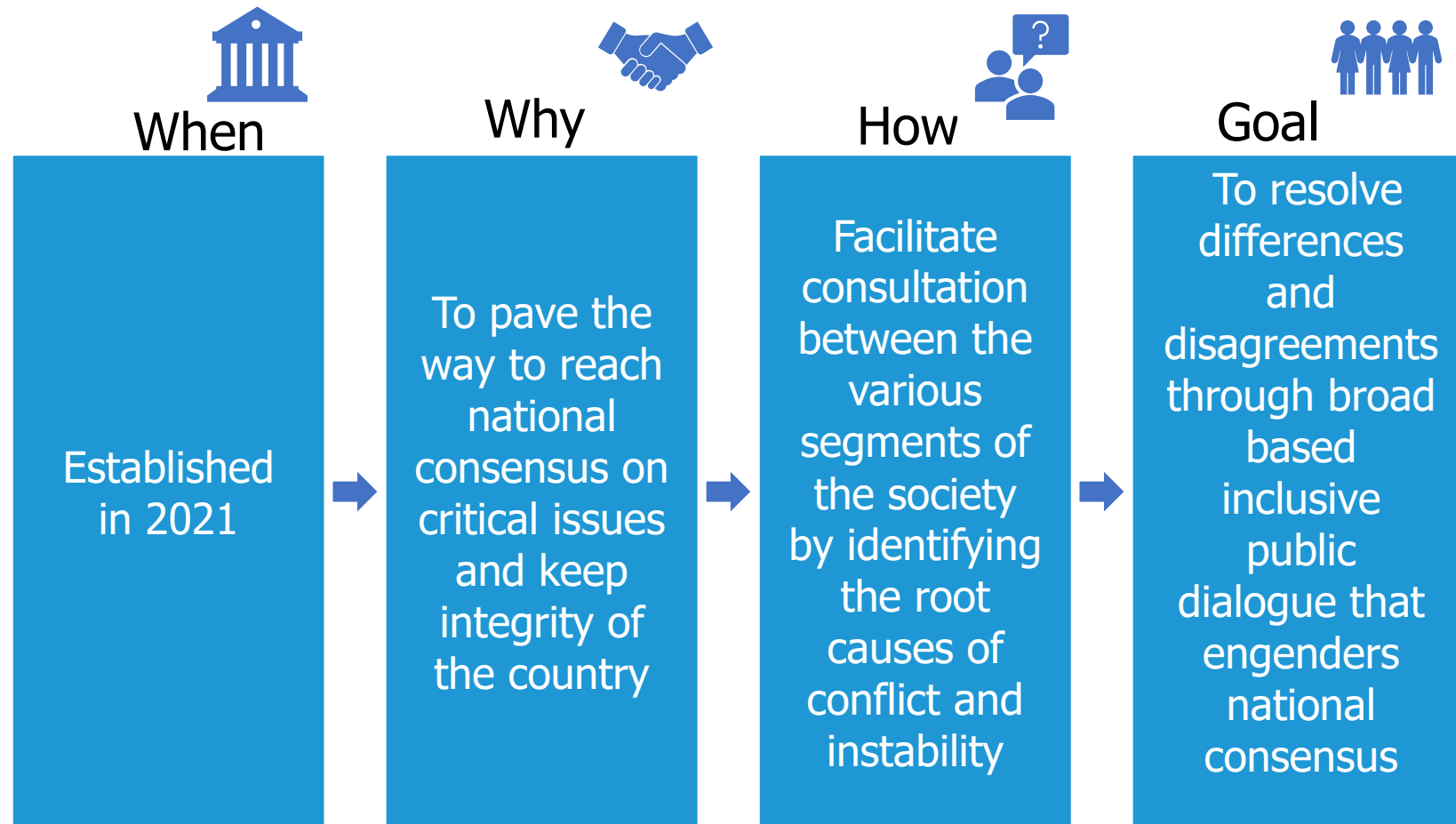
# Peace-building Initiatives

**National Dialogue**
led by the
Ethiopian National Dialogue
Commission

**Transitional  Justice**

**National Rehabilitation**
led by the
National Rehabilitation
Commission

# Ethiopia National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) activities

ENDC is currently engaged in preparatory activities of undertaking inclusive and participatory initial consultations to identify dialogue participants and key national level agenda issues

Convening wider consultations and participant selection from diverse constituencies and various stakeholders. Has consulted 5 regions and 2 city administrations and plan to continue for the remaining regions

Roundtables held with different stakeholders and donors

stakeholders identified and MoU developed

Collection of Agenda already started (suggestion box, phone, post, email, website, participant selection minutes)

Budgeting from Gov't (MoF) & Partnership from (UNDP)

# Possible interventions through partnerships with the ENDC

Sensitization and capacity building

Digitalization and efficient operation of ENDC and regional coordination center

Facilitation of consultations, agenda collection, screening thematizing for final discussion

Strategic support towards the institutionalization of a permanent dialogue mechanism at regional level

Development of a system to track and monitor the status of implementation of recommendations/outcomes

# National Rehabilitation Commission

**Established** in 2022

**Objective:** demobilize and sustainably reintegrate ex-combatants

**How?** enable them to have peaceful livelihoods and engaging them in the development, peace-building, and democratization of the country.

**Support Needed:**

✓ More resources to reintegrate ex-combatants;
✓ Sensitization and capacity building
✓ Digitalization and efficient operation of NRC
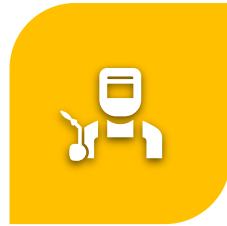✓ Development of a system to track and monitor the implementation status

# Transitional Justice

**Deal with unaddressed/ unprocessed legacies of the past and organize its future**

**Develop a comprehensive /integrated transitional justice policy**

**Transitional justice working group of experts (TJWGE) established in 2022**

**The working group mandated to craft transitional justice policy and carry out national consultations**

**Important milestones: Joint investigation team (JIT) -EHRC/OHCHR and cessation of hostilities agreement (COHA) with TPLF: need for operationalizing transitional justice**

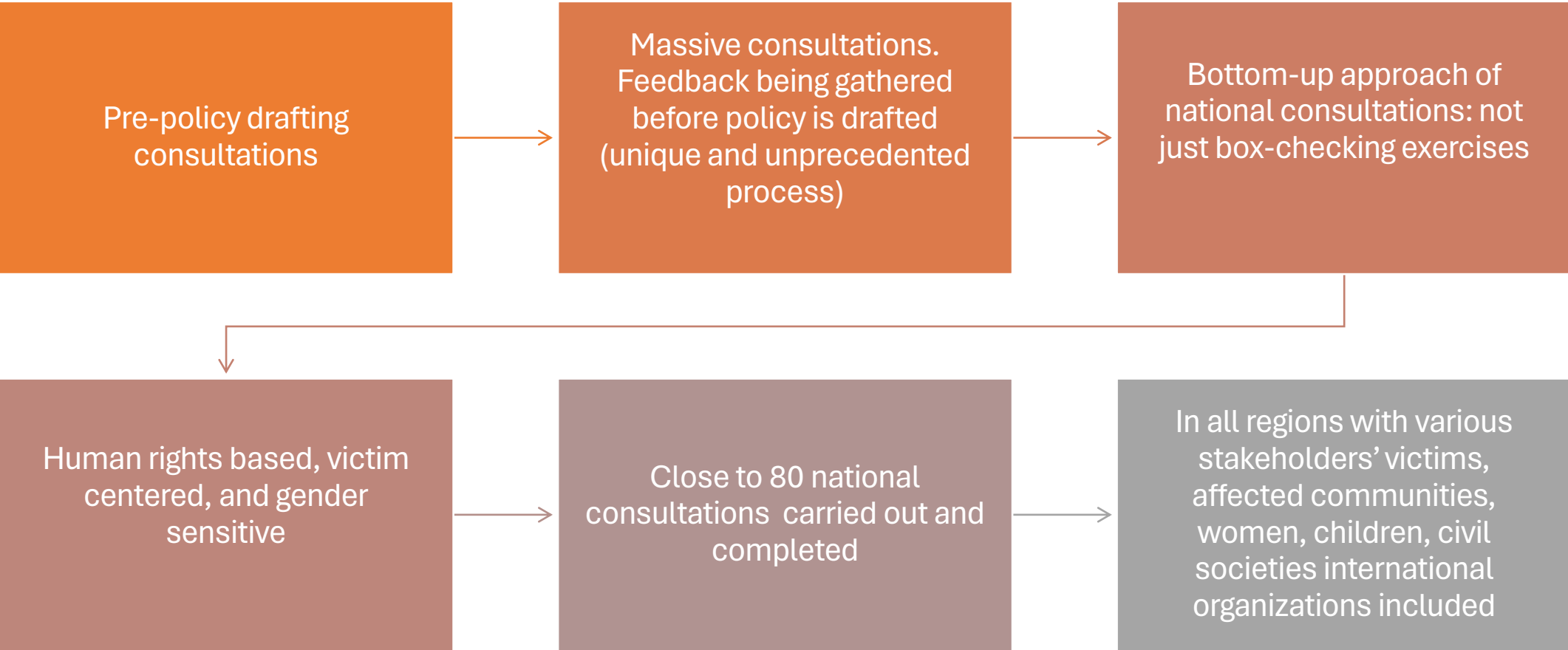# Goal of the Transitional Justice process

**Accountability**

**Truth finding**

**Reconciliation**

**Reparation**

**Institutional and legal reform**

# Transitional Justice Process

Pre-policy drafting consultations

→

Massive consultations. Feedback being gathered before policy is drafted (unique and unprecedented process)

→

Bottom-up approach of national consultations: not just box-checking exercises

Human rights based, victim centered, and gender sensitive

→

Close to 80 national consultations carried out and completed

→

In all regions with various stakeholders' victims, affected communities, women, children, civil societies international organizations included

# Transitional Justice - Possible interventions through partnerships

SENSITIZATION, CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT

LAW REFORMS AND ENABLING LEGISLATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS AND INSTITUTIONAL SETUPS

TECHNICAL AND EXPERT ASSISTANCE

# Reforms

Various institutional and legal reforms at the federal and regional level

Focus on justice and security sectors

Establish a sustainable system that aims at building a human rights culture and institutional stability contributing to sustainable peace

# Shared Priorities/Results for 2024 and beyond

- **Recognition that peace and stability is the core challenge in Ethiopia today**

- Full implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (**CoHA)**

- Resolution of **outstanding conflicts**

- Urgent delivery of **a 'peace dividend'** – peace support/stabilization + recovery and reconstruction

- Independent, credible and inclusive **National Dialogue**

- Continued reform towards **democratic governance** + **political inclusion**

- **Macroeconomic stabilisation** + job-rich economic **growth** (Ten Year Development Plan - TYDP, Homegrown Economic Reform - HGER 2.0)

# Making headway together

- What should peace and development actors do to ensure sustainable peace in Ethiopia in the current socio-political and economic context?

- How can we build mutual trust and confidence to accelerate action?

- What are the choices and trade-offs for partners in supporting peace-building e.g. balance between prevention and response?